

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Office Action mailed on March 1, 2004. Reexamination in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 14-16, 23, and 25-34 are currently pending in this application, with claims 6, 15, 16, 23, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 being independent. *No new matter has been added.*

Allowable subject matter

Appreciation is expressed for the indication that claims 6, 14, 15, 16 and 23 contain allowable subject matter. Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Election/Restriction

The Office Action indicates that claims 25-26 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Accordingly, a Petition Under 37 C.F.R. §1.144 requesting review of a restriction requirement made the Office Action of November 5, 2003 is provided along with this Amendment.

Timely review and consideration of the Petition along with the rejoinder of the allegedly distinct inventions is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action recommends listing the references used within the Communication Pursuant to Article 96(2) EPC submitted on December 12, 2003 and providing a legible copy of each of the references.

In response, and a legible copy of each of the references used within the Communication Pursuant to Article 96(2) EPC has been listed on an Information Disclosure Statement submitted on January 24, 2003.

Drawing Objections

The Office Action objects to the drawings by contending that reference characters "18" and "19" have both been used to designate the chassis in Figure 4A; that reference characters "25" and "26" have both been used to designate the chassis in Figure 4B; and, that reference characters "31" and "32" have both been used to designate the chassis in Figure 4C.

In response to this contention, please note that 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(4) provides that *"the same part of an invention appearing in more than one view of the drawing must always be designated by the same reference character, and the same reference character must never be used to designate different parts."* However, it is respectfully submitted that the following reference numbers refer to the appropriate elements in the drawing figures:

DRAWING FIGURE	REFERENCE NUMBER	ELEMENT NAME
4A	18	mechanical chassis
4A	19	Chassis
4B	25	mechanical chassis
4B	26	Chassis
4C	31	mechanical chassis
4C	32	Chassis

Each one of the reference numbers 18, 25 and 31 is associated to its respective drawing figure element with a lead line having an arrowhead. A lead line having an arrowhead typically refers to the structure as a whole. Moreover, each one of the reference numbers 19, 26 and 32 is associated to their respective drawing figure element with a lead line that is absent an arrowhead. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the drawings are in proper form.

Withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Claim objections

The Office Action includes objections to claims 2-5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14 and 24. While not conceding the propriety of these objections and in order to advance the prosecution of the above-identified application, claims 2-5, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of their underlying subject matter, and claim 14 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 6.

Withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and §103

While not conceding the propriety of these rejections and in order to advance the prosecution of the above-identified application, claims 2-5, 7-13, 18-22 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of their underlying subject matter, and claims 6, 14-16 and 23 have been amended.

Regarding the use of design choice in the rejection of the claims, please note that this unsupported assertion amounts to nothing more than conclusions that are personal in nature. Note that the teachings, suggestions or incentives supporting the obviousness-type rejection must be clear and particular. Broad conclusory statements, standing alone, are not evidence. *In re Dembiczak*, 50 USPQ2d 1614, 1617 (Fed. Cir. 1999).

Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Newly added claims

Newly added claim 27 is drawn to a vibration preventing damper forming method for supporting in a vibration proof manner a mechanical chassis apparatus provided with a non-contact reading mechanism for a disc recording medium in a floating manner within a casing, the vibration preventing damper being formed integrally with the casing or the mechanical chassis apparatus, characterized by comprising the steps of:

preparing a damper housing in the form of a container opened at one end, the damper housing having a holder portion for holding a support shaft provided in one of the casing and the mechanical chassis apparatus, an elastic wall portion that is capable of reducing a floating movement of the support shaft due to elastic deformation in three-dimensional directions, and an opening side end portion formed of a resin material, and preparing a cover plate formed of a resin material; and

regarding the other of the casing and the mechanical chassis apparatus, forming a through hole that passes through the plate thickness in a metal portion that forms the vibration preventing damper and forming an annular resin portion that covers hole edges of the through hole at both front and rear surfaces,

characterized in that the opening of the damper housing is fixed to the annular resin portion on one surface side of the other of the casing and the mechanical chassis apparatus, and the cover plate is fixed to the annular resin portion of the other surface side, thereby closing an inner portion space that is formed by both the damper housing and the through hole, and integrally forming the vibration preventing damper with the casing or the mechanical chassis apparatus.

The Office Action highlights that Japanese Publication No. 09-147537 to Tatsuaki (JP'537) fails to disclose, teach or suggest a resin hole edge covering portion on one side surface of the chassis and a lid member made of a resin material on the other side surface of the chassis, fails to fails to disclose, teach or suggest the chassis comprising a metal portion on which the non-contact reading mechanism is provided and a resin portion in which a vibration preventing damper is included, and fails to disclose, teach or suggest the chassis being fabricated from a

metal and having a resin portion integrally connected to the chassis forming a ring covering an inner periphery of the through hole and a lid member. The above-noted features that are absent from JP'537 are also absent from within U.S. Patent No. 6,310,853 to Ito.

Within claim 27, the opening of the damper housing is fixed to the annular resin portion on one surface side of the other of the casing and the mechanical chassis apparatus, and the cover plate is fixed to the annular resin portion of the other surface side, thereby closing an inner portion space that is formed by both the damper housing and the through hole, and integrally forming the vibration preventing damper with the casing or the mechanical chassis apparatus. Accordingly, allowance of claim 27 is respectfully requested.

Newly added claim 28 and the claims dependent thereon include the features of:

a chassis member having a non-contact reading mechanism for a disc recording medium, a metal plate, in which a through hole is formed in a vibration preventing damper forming portion, and an annular resin portion that covers a hole inside and hole edges of the through hole at both front and rear surfaces;

a damper housing in the form of a container opened at one end, the damper housing having a holder portion for holding a support shaft that is provided projecting into a casing that houses the chassis member, an elastic wall portion that is capable of reducing a floating movement of the support shaft due to elastic deformation in three-dimensional directions, and an opening side end portion formed of a resin material; and

a cover plate formed of a resin material,

characterized in that the vibration preventing damper, in which an inner portion space of the damper housing formed by an inner circumferential surface of the annular resin portion is closed by the cover plate, is formed integrally with the chassis member by fixing the opening side end portion of the damper housing to the annular resin portion on one surface side of the chassis member, and fixing the cover plate to the annular resin portion in another surface side of the chassis member.

The Office Action highlights that JP'537 fails to disclose, teach or suggest a resin hole edge covering portion on one side surface of the chassis and a lid member made of a resin material on the other side surface of the chassis, fails to fails to disclose, teach or suggest the chassis comprising a metal portion on which the non-contact reading mechanism is provided and a resin portion in which a vibration preventing damper is included, and fails to disclose, teach or suggest the chassis being fabricated from a metal and having a resin portion integrally connected to the chassis forming a ring covering an inner periphery of the through hole and a lid member. The above-noted features that are absent from JP'537 are also absent from within Ito.

Within claim 28, the vibration preventing damper, in which an inner portion space of the damper housing formed by an inner circumferential surface of the annular resin portion is closed by the cover plate, is formed integrally with the chassis member by fixing the opening side end portion of the damper housing to the annular resin portion on one surface side of the chassis member, and fixing the cover plate to the annular resin portion in another surface side of the chassis member. Accordingly, allowance of claim 28 is respectfully requested.

Newly added claim 29 is drawn to a vibration preventing damper forming method for supporting in a vibration proof manner a mechanical chassis apparatus provided with a non-contact reading mechanism for a disc recording medium in a floating manner within a casing, the vibration preventing damper being formed integrally with the casing or the mechanical chassis apparatus, characterized by comprising the steps of:

preparing a damper housing in the form of a container opened at one end, the damper housing having a holder portion for holding a support shaft provided in one of the casing and the mechanical chassis apparatus, an elastic wall portion that is capable of reducing a floating movement of the support shaft due to elastic deformation in three-dimensional directions, and an opening side end portion formed of a resin material, and preparing a cover plate formed of a resin material; and

regarding the other of the casing and the mechanical chassis apparatus, forming a through hole that passes through the plate thickness of a portion that forms the vibration preventing damper,

characterized in that the opening of the damper housing is fixed to a hole edge of the through hole on one surface side of the other of the casing and the mechanical chassis apparatus, and the cover plate is fixed to a hole edge of the through hole on another surface side, thereby closing an inner portion space that is formed by both the damper housing and the through hole, and integrally forming the vibration preventing damper with the casing or the mechanical chassis apparatus.

The Office Action highlights that JP'537 fails to disclose, teach or suggest a resin hole edge covering portion on one side surface of the chassis and a lid member made of a resin material on the other side surface of the chassis, fails to fails to disclose, teach or suggest the chassis comprising a metal portion on which the non-contact reading mechanism is provided and a resin portion in which a vibration preventing damper is included, and fails to disclose, teach or suggest the chassis being fabricated from a metal and having a resin portion integrally connected to the chassis forming a ring covering an inner periphery of the through hole and a lid member. The above-noted features that are absent from JP'537 are also absent from within Ito.

Within claim 29, the opening of the damper housing is fixed to a hole edge of the through hole on one surface side of the other of the casing and the mechanical chassis apparatus, and the cover plate is fixed to a hole edge of the through hole on another surface side, thereby closing an inner portion space that is formed by both the damper housing and the through hole, and integrally forming the vibration preventing damper with the casing or the mechanical chassis apparatus. Accordingly, allowance of claim 29 is respectfully requested.

Newly added claim 30 and the claims dependent thereon include the features of:

a chassis member having a non-contact reading mechanism for a disc recording medium and a resin plate, in which a through hole is formed, in a vibration preventing damper forming portion;

a damper housing in the form of a container opened at one end, the damper housing having a holder portion for holding a support shaft that is provided projecting into a casing that houses the chassis member, an elastic wall portion that is capable of reducing a floating movement of the support shaft due to elastic deformation in three-

dimensional directions, and an opening side end portion formed of a resin material;
and

a cover plate formed of a resin material,

characterized in that the vibration preventing damper, in which an inner portion space of the damper housing formed by the through hole is closed by the cover plate, is formed integrally with the chassis member by fixing the opening side end portion of the damper housing to a hole edge of the through hole on one surface side of the resin plate of the chassis member, and fixing the cover plate to a hole edge of the through hole on another surface side of the resin plate of the chassis member.

The Office Action highlights that JP'537 fails to disclose, teach or suggest a resin hole edge covering portion on one side surface of the chassis and a lid member made of a resin material on the other side surface of the chassis, fails to fails to disclose, teach or suggest the chassis comprising a metal portion on which the non-contact reading mechanism is provided and a resin portion in which a vibration preventing damper is included, and fails to disclose, teach or suggest the chassis being fabricated from a metal and having a resin portion integrally connected to the chassis forming a ring covering an inner periphery of the through hole and a lid member. The above-noted features that are absent from JP'537 are also absent from within Ito.

Within claim 30, the vibration preventing damper, in which an inner portion space of the damper housing formed by the through hole is closed by the cover plate, is formed integrally with the chassis member by fixing the opening side end portion of the damper housing to a hole edge of the through hole on one surface side of the resin plate of the chassis member, and fixing the cover plate to a hole edge of the through hole on another surface side of the resin plate of the chassis member. Accordingly, allowance of claim 30 is respectfully requested.

Newly added claim 31 is drawn to a vibration preventing damper forming method for supporting in a vibration proof manner a mechanical chassis apparatus provided with a non-contact reading mechanism for a disc recording medium in a floating manner within a casing, the vibration preventing damper being formed integrally with the casing or the mechanical chassis apparatus, characterized by comprising the steps of:

preparing a damper housing in the form of a container opened at one end, the damper housing having a holder portion for holding a support shaft provided in one of the casing and the mechanical chassis apparatus, an elastic wall portion that is capable of reducing a floating movement of the support shaft due to elastic deformation in three-dimensional directions, and an opening side end portion formed of a resin material, and preparing a cover plate formed of a resin material; and

regarding the other of the casing and the mechanical chassis apparatus, forming a through hole that passes through the plate thickness of a portion that forms the vibration preventing damper,

characterized in that the opening of the damper housing is fixed to a hole edge of the through hole through an ultrasonic wave heat bonding on one surface side, and the cover plate is fixed to a hole edge of the through hole on another surface side, thereby closing an inner portion space that is formed by both the damper housing and the through hole, and integrally forming the vibration preventing damper with the casing or the mechanical chassis apparatus.

The Office Action highlights that JP'537 fails to disclose, teach or suggest a resin hole edge covering portion on one side surface of the chassis and a lid member made of a resin material on the other side surface of the chassis, fails to fails to disclose, teach or suggest the chassis comprising a metal portion on which the non-contact reading mechanism is provided and a resin portion in which a vibration preventing damper is included, and fails to disclose, teach or suggest the chassis being fabricated from a metal and having a resin portion integrally connected to the chassis forming a ring covering an inner periphery of the through hole and a lid member. The above-noted features that are absent from JP'537 are also absent from within Ito.

Within claim 31, the opening of the damper housing is fixed to a hole edge of the through hole through an ultrasonic wave heat bonding on one surface side, and the cover plate is fixed to a hole edge of the through hole on another surface side, thereby closing an inner portion space that is formed by both the damper housing and the through hole, and integrally forming the vibration preventing damper with the casing or the mechanical chassis apparatus. Accordingly, allowance of claim 31 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion



For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are allowable, and the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and remarks is courteously solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone Brian K. Dutton, Reg. No. 47,255, at 202-955-8753.

If any fee is required or any overpayment made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee or credit the overpayment to Deposit Account # 18-0013.

Dated: January 12, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By  

David T. Nikaido

Registration No.: 22,663

Brian K. Dutton

Registration No.: 47,255

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC

1233 20th Street, N.W.

Suite 501

Washington, DC 20036

(202) 955-3750

Attorneys for Applicant